



FACT SHEET

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UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN USDA’S DISASTER SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Service administers the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and, during cases of an emergency, the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP). D-SNAP is a *completely* different program from regular SNAP. The chart below, from the [D-SNAP Guidance](#), compares the two programs. Additional information about SNAP is available at www.fns.usda.gov/snap. And for information about USDA’s response efforts for recent disasters go to <http://www.fns.usda.gov/disasters/disaster.htm>.

Table 4. SNAP vs. D-SNAP

Eligibility Element	SNAP	Typical Disaster SNAP
Disaster Status	N/A	One of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Damage to home or self-employment property• Disaster related expenses• Income source disrupted• Inaccessible liquid resources• Food loss (State option)
Identity of applicant	Verified	Verified
Residency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project area• Verified	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disaster area• Verified if possible
Household Composition	As defined in 7 CFR 273.1(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Persons living and eating together at the time of a disaster• Does NOT include members of a household with whom applicants are temporarily staying after the disaster.
Benefit amount	Benefit calculation according to 7 CFR 273.10	Maximum allotment for household size
Alien Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Citizenship and alien status is verified• Applicant must sign statement under penalty of perjury that information is correct	Citizenship and alien status is NOT Applicable

Table 4. SNAP vs. D-SNAP

Eligibility Element	SNAP	Typical Disaster SNAP
Students	As defined in 7 CFR 273.5	Status is not applicable
Social Security Numbers (SSN)	Failure to provide SSNs of household members results in denial	Failure to provide SSNs of household members does NOT result in denial. States may request SSN on their D-SNAP application, but the application must indicate that a household will not be denied benefits for failure to provide a SSN.
Work Requirements	Yes	No
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannot exceed \$2,000 if there is NOT an elderly household member • Cannot exceed \$3,000 if there is an elderly household member • Verification is optional 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No separate resource test • Only liquid resources are counted • Verified WHERE POSSIBLE • (See Chapter 3: Income and Resource Tests)
Income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special provisions for elderly and handicapped • Verified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only net (take-home) income expected to be received during the benefit period counted. Take-home pay is defined as wages a household actually receives after taxes and <i>all</i> payroll withholding, public assistance payments or other unearned income, and net self-employment income. • No special provisions for elderly and handicapped • Verified WHERE POSSIBLE • (See Chapter 3: Income and Resource Tests)
Expenses	Deductions include: standard, earned income, excess shelter, dependent care, and medical (elderly/disabled members only).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum standard and shelter deductions already incorporated into disaster eligibility standards • Disaster-related expenses that are not expected to be reimbursed during the 30-day disaster benefit period are allowed • (See Chapter 3: Income and Resource Tests)
Intentional Program Violations (IPVs)	Penalties are 12 months, 24 months, and permanent disqualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disqualification status from regular program does NOT disqualify an applicant from the D-SNAP • Committing IPV in the D-SNAP WILL count towards disqualification in the regular SNAP